(iv) Under the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) of Ministry of MSME, four Bambooo and Cane clusters have been identified in NER (two in Assam, one each in Mizoram and Meghalaya) for skill building/capacity development of grassroots artisans and technology upgradation. Around 3000 artisans have been covered under the schemes.

Electrification of railway tracks

889. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of his Ministry regarding electrification of railway tracks;

(b) whether it is not proper to have railway tracks electrified to be optimum; and

(c) how many proposals for electrification of railway tracks have been recommended from the State of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh and what is the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) and (b) Electrification projects are considered primarily on traffic volumes, economic viability and operational necessity.

(c) No proposal has been recommended by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in recent past. The State Government of Rajasthan had recommended electrification of Bina-Kota, Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur and Ratlam-Neemuch-Chittorgarh sections, amongst which, work is in progress on Bina-Kota section. Electrification of the other two routes has not been found viable on present volumes of traffic.

Loco reparing factory at Anugul

+890. SHRI RUDRANARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees working at present in the loco repairing factory situated at Anugul in Orissa;

(b) the work being actually carried out in that factory at present;

(c) whether Government accepts that the pace of work of the factory is slow; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the measures to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): ' (a) Approximately 176 employees are working at present in the electric loco shed at Anugal in Orissa.

(b) At present 44 electric locomotives are allotted for their maintenance at the electric loco shed at Anugul. The prescribed inspection and maintenance schedules and unscheduled repairs of electric locos are carried out.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

t Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Linking Bhiwadi with Delhi-Ahmedabad rail line

891. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether linking Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad broad gauge railway line is vital for industrial growth of NCR as well as Rajasthan as Bhiwadi is an industrial hub of Rajasthan,
which is located in the National Capital Region;

(b) whether his Ministry has suggested the State Government to incur the cost of this project;

(c) if so, the response of the State Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government realizing the importance of the project is going to sanction this linking railway line;

(e) if so, by when; and

(0 if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) A survey for construction of a new broad gauge line between Rewari-Bhiwadi was completed in 2003-04. As per the survey report, the cost of construction of 24.87 kms long line had been assessed as Rs. 105.04 crore with a Rate of Return as (-) 8.56%. The State Government of Rajasthan expressed their willingness to take up this project under National Capital Region Plan and Assistance to the State for Infrastructure Development for Export and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme. The matter was referred to the State Government for bearing the cost of the project but there was no positive response in this regard. In view of this, the proposed new line was not taken up due to its unremunerative nature and constraint of resources.

However, an updating survey for a new line linking Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad broad gauge line (27 kms) has been proposed in the Railway Budget 2008-09.

Contracts to foreign firms for upgradation of stations

892. SHRI MATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKABALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to upgrade several railway stations across the country to world class standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign based firms have been selected for the development of railway stations;

(d) if so, the criteria adopted for selecting such foreign firms; and

(e) the terms and conditions laid down by the Government in awarding such contracts to foreign firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Following stations have been identified for re-development as World Class stations:—